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This is in response to the Final Office Communication mailed November 20, 2003 for the above-referenced patent application. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for reviewing the instant application. A request for continuing examination (RCE) is enclosed herewith.

Amendments to the Claims can be found beginning on Page 3.

**Appl. No.** : **09/923,870**  
**Filed** : **August 6, 2001**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**On page 1, at line 6, please replace the sentence following “Related Applications” with the following sentence:**

**“This application is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 09/243,022, filed February 2, 1999.”**